

Long distance prices have already dropped by 65% in the last decade because it's already highly competitive. However, SBC's entry into long distance can easily end the slow growth of local phone competition, where local phone prices are just now beginning to drop.

Currently SBC controls over 80% of local phone service in its territory. If the company is permitted now to sell long distance, it would only clear a path for SBC to begin re-monopolizing both the local and long-distance market - forcing competitive companies out and local and long distance prices up.